

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, claims 30-61 have been withdrawn. Claims 4-6 and 62-64 have been amended. The amendment is supported by the specification at page 23, line 5-22, although the claimed invention should not be limited by the specification. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 13-29 and 71-87. Claims 4-29 and 62-87 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-12, 30-41 and 59-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,889,885 to Moed et al. ("Moed"). The rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Independent claims 4-6, as amended, recite "a low-resolution image generation part generating a low resolution image from the original image, said low resolution image having a lower resolution than the original image" and "a character area extraction part performing a local adaptive binarization of each color component by performing a local adaptive threshold processing and an expansion processing to the low-resolution image so as to perform an extractive detection of a character area and extracting a character area from said original image according to said feature value." Moed does not disclose, teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, claims 4-6 are allowable over Moed.

Claims 7-12 depend each respectively depend from one of claims 4-6 and are allowable over Moed along with claims 4-6 and on their own merits. Claims 30-41 and 59-61 have been cancelled so the rejection of these claims is moot. Claims 62-64 have been amended to recite similar limitations and are allowable over Moed as well. Claims 65-70 each respectively depend from one of claims 62-64 and are allowable over Moed along with claims 62-64. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

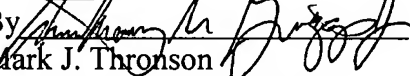
Claims 13-29 and 71-87 stand objected to as dependent upon a rejected claim base. In view of the above described amendment, Applicant submits that the objection is moot and respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 30-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 30-58 have been cancelled so the rejection is moot.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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